

AFG Area 9 – Florida North Area Charter

Introduction

- a. From the Service Manual: “The Al-Anon World Service Conference Charter is a body of principles and relationships through which Al-Anon as a whole can function. The provisions of the document are not legal, but traditional, since the conference is not incorporated. This charter is an informal agreement between all Al-Anon and it’s World Service Office.” – p. 171
- b. The AFG Area 9 Charter is a body of traditional, historical, and group conscience decisions. These provisions are traditional, since the Area is not incorporated. This charter serves as an informal agreement among the Groups and Districts of Area 9 defining the scope and function of our Area and its role in the worldwide fellowship of Al-Anon Family Groups.

1. Purpose

- a. To connect the Groups in this geographic location to the worldwide fellowship of Al-Anon Family Groups through its service structure
- b. To be a service body, not a government
- c. To be the custodian of archives of the Area
- d. To operate under the principles of the three Legacies: Steps, Traditions and Concepts

2. Composition

- a. The Area is made up all Al-Anon members of the 13 Districts, however divided. Current District boundaries are listed on the Area website.
- b. The Area is divided into Service Structure arms as follows:
 - i. Groups
 - ii. Districts
 - iii. AWSC Panel
 - iv. Assembly
- c. The Area includes an Area World Service Committee (or AWSC Panel) that is elected every three years according to the Area Election Procedures Guidelines. The AWSC Panel includes:
 - i. Officers
 - ii. Coordinators
 - iii. DRs
 - iv. DISLs

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- v. Past Delegates
- vi. Event Chairs
- d. AWSC Panel serves for three years in accordance with our Election Procedures, except for Event Chairs who serve for the term of their Event service.
- e. The Area Assembly is made up of Group Representatives from every active Group according to the records of the WSO. In addition various Districts may send District Officers and other AI-Anon members as Growth Enhancement Members (GEMs) as they determine according to their own District Guidelines. They participate in accordance with Assembly procedures.

3. Relation to AI-Anon

- a. The Area acts on behalf of the informed group conscience of the Districts and Groups in matters of Public Outreach, Member Services and connecting to the WSO services.
- b. Through its duly elected Delegate the Area is in an ongoing working relationship with the WSO and the Board of Trustees.
- c. Members of AI-Anon attending the Assembly may express views on policies and projects.
- d. Group Representatives vote on behalf of their Groups. One vote per group. As with all levels of service, the GR is a trusted servant who can vote on behalf of the Group, District and Area according to their conscience and in light of any KBDM information they receive.
- e. Wording of this Charter may be changed by a vote of 3/4 of Assembly members after changes have been through the KBDM process of Thought and Task Force deliberation.

4. Relationship between the Districts, the Area and NFA AFG, Inc.

- a. The Districts gather together as equal members in the Area World Service Committee along with the Officers, Coordinators, Event Chairs and Past Delegates in order to take care of the business of AI-Anon. This make up of the AWSC can change by a vote of 2/3 of the Assembly members after the motion has been through a Knowledge-Based Decision Making (KBDM) process of deliberation.
- b. The Area Assembly has created a corporation – NFA AFG, Inc. – to take care of its business and contractual needs. This corporation is a committee directly responsible to AI-Anon members of the Area, whom it serves. See Section 11 for more detailed information on NFA AFG, Inc.

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- c. In accordance with the provisions of the Bylaws of NFA AFG, Inc., the Assembly may bring about a reorganization of the Corporation when it is deemed essential, and this process should work its way through KBDM deliberations, discussion and a vote of 3/4 of members present.
- d. NFA AFG, Inc. maintains a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS for purposes of tax-exempt status for all official business of the corporation on behalf of the Area, and periodically reports to the Area Assembly maintenance of such status.
- e. NFA AFG, Inc. maintains compliance with all aspects of the laws of the State of Florida and periodically reports to the Area Assembly such compliance.
- f. Districts maintain their own autonomy within the principles of the Traditions, but all work together in unity.
- g. Al-Anon members, Groups, Districts and the Area Assembly work together within the service structure of the worldwide fellowship of Al-Anon Family Groups as outlined in the Service Manual P24/27. See p. 166 for a diagram of the Service Structure.
- h. The Area Assembly and the AWSC use KBDM to reach an informed Group Conscience. The members of the AWSC Panel may assist Districts and Groups in learning about, and using, the KBDM process in taking care of their Al-Anon business.

5. Assembly: Purpose of

- a. Assembly convenes twice a year (Spring and Fall) for the purpose of conducting Al-Anon business. This business can include:
 - i. Election of Assembly Officers and choosing Coordinators for the Panel once every three years, including sending a Delegate to the World Service Conference.
 - ii. All election processes are in accordance with the Area Election Procedures Guidelines.
 - iii. Area Assembly is committed to using the principles of Knowledge Based Decision Making to reach an informed Group Conscience. As such, all agendas and reports will be available to the membership ample time before the Assembly so that everyone can be prepared for the matters of concern.
 - iv. Meeting together benefits the members of the fellowship through sharing experience, strength and hope.
- b. Assemblies are concerned primarily with:
 - i. Public Outreach: coordinating the dissemination of materials to people who are affected by someone else's drinking.

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- ii. Members Services: coordinating communication and support for Districts, Groups and individuals relating to literature, meetings, Al-Anon principles, recovery within Al-Anon and our relationship with the World Service Office.
- iii. Financial Matters: communicating information on donations to the Area, discussing and approving budgets annually, and sharing updates on all aspects of our legal and financial status.
- iv. Maintaining an archive of our history and our decisions, to support smooth and stable operation of our fellowship and service structure. This includes an ongoing Website presence.
- v. Alateen support and growth through Area Events: Alateen Roundup, Alateen Conference and Alateen participation in an Annual Area Convention.
- vi. Special Area Events to bring all members together in support, fellowship and recovery. These can include Convention, Service Workshop, TEAM event, and other similar Events.
- vii. Coordinators work on behalf of the entire Area to assist individuals, Groups and Districts in the primary purpose of Al-Anon Family Groups.

6. Assembly: Purpose of

- a. Area Assembly runs from Friday evening through Sunday morning, and is held in a central location.
- b. Members of the AWSC Panel attend Assembly.
- c. All Al-Anon members are welcome at Assembly.
- d. All registered Al-Anon members who attend Assembly have a voice. All registered Al-Anon members who attend as a Group Representative (duly elected or chosen) have a vote on matters before the Assembly.
- e. WSO has given authority to Areas and Districts to redistrict as needed. The affected Districts must mutually agree to redistrict meetings or current boundaries. Utilizing Thought and Task Forces among affected Districts would be within the KBDM process. Districts may seek assistance from AWSC Panel and Officers.
- f. Assembly Agenda is the responsibility of the Area Chairperson, who presides over the meeting. The agenda should include and support:
 - i. Reports and presentations on all matters affecting the Area
 - ii. Reports can be written, digital and/or oral
 - iii. Area workshops, Thought Forces, Break Out meetings and/or WSO visitors

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- iv. Ample time for questions and deliberations to effectively support Knowledge Based Decision Making for an informed group conscience
- g. Coordination and facilitation of the AWSC and Assembly meeting is the responsibility of the Chairperson as outlined in the Area Job Descriptions.

7. Assembly: Preferred method of elections

- a. Districts follow their own autonomous guidelines for electing a District Representative (DR) and District Information Service Liaison (DISL) from among their Group Representatives.
- b. Area Elections are to be held in accordance with the Area Elections Procedures Guidelines which should be updated and approved at least once each Panel.

8. Composition of AWSC Panel

- a. The Area World Service Committee Panel is made up of:
 - i. Area Officers: Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer; the Area Officers serve as the Area Policy Committee
 - ii. Area Coordinators: AAPP, Alateen, Archives, Group Records, Literature, Public Outreach, Spanish, Technology
 - iii. Event Chairs (for the duration of their service, not for the full three years):
 - 1. Convention – one chair at a time, one overlap, etc.
 - 2. Alateen Roundup
 - 3. Alateen Conference
 - 4. Area Service Workshop
 - iv. Past Delegates: Those who have served as a Delegate for AFG Area 9 – Florida North
 - v. By a vote of 3/4 of the AWSC the panel may seat one extra person who has made extraordinary contributions of service to the Area
 - vi. One District Representative (DR) from each District
 - vii. One District Information Service Liaison (DISL) from each District

9. AWSC Meetings

- a. The AWSC meets twice a year (Winter and Summer)
- b. Members of the AWSC Panel work together on behalf of the Area as a whole. They represent their District, but they also vote their conscience based on the information available through Knowledge Based Decision Making procedures.
- c. Communication of the Agenda and items for discussion is to be made available

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- well in advance of the meetings, to allow all members ample time to prepare.
- d. Area assumes the financial responsibility for participation in the AWSC meetings to allow all Districts to participate. Any District with the financial capacity to do so is encouraged to reimburse the Area for their two trusted servants.
- e. Reimbursement decisions are a group conscience decision and can be addressed through KBDM process under the direction of the Treasurer.

10. AWSC Procedures

- a. The AWSC receives reports from all Officers, Coordinators, Event Chairs and Districts. These written reports are submitted to the Technology Coordinator for posting on the Area Website. The Area Officers serve as the Policy Committee.
- b. The AWSC receives financial reports (written and oral) from the Treasurer.
- c. The AWSC receives updated CMA and minutes from the Secretary.
- d. AWSC members take under advisement all matters affecting the Area as a whole, engage in debate, appoint committees and pass recommendations for the Assembly to consider.
- e. AWSC members participate in Thought and/or Task Forces outside of the regular meetings.
- f. A quorum shall consist of two-thirds of the members registered at the AWSC meeting.

11. NFA AFG, Inc.: Composition, Jurisdiction, Responsibilities

NFA AFG, Inc. is a committee of the Area as a whole. It was created to render services directly responsible to the Area, through cooperation and oversight of the AWSC and its Officers.

- a. The Board of the Corporation – NFA AFG, Inc. – is composed of the Officers of the Area and those members recommended by the AWSC as a whole, and approved by the Assembly. See “i” below.
- b. The Board of the Corporation – NFA AFG, Inc. – operates as the chief business arm of the Area and reports directly to the AWSC and Assembly.
- c. The Board of the Corporation – NFA AFG, Inc. – may create committees as necessary to accomplish the business of the Area.
- d. The Board of the Corporation – NFA AFG, Inc. – operates only the business of the Area, it does not create or participate in policy and traditional operations of the Area.
- e. The Board of the Corporation – NFA AFG, Inc. – must comply with all state and

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federal laws and it is the sole responsibility of the Board to maintain all records of this compliance.

- f. The Board of the Corporation – NFA AFG, Inc. – may work directly with Area Events, Districts and Groups to implement the business of the Area.
- g. Except in matters of great emergency the Board of the Corporation ought never take action liable to affect Groups, Districts, the Area or Al-Anon as a whole without consulting the full AWSC panel.
- h. The Corporation – NFA AFG, Inc. – is the service arm of the Area that helps implement, not create, the policies and projects of the Area. All budget and policy decisions are made by the AWSC and Assembly, NOT by the Corporation or its Board of Directors.
- i. The Officers of the Area, the Area Technology Coordinator, and the Area Alateen Process Person serve as Board Members for the duration of their Panel term. The Area Convention Chairperson serves as an At-Large Director for the duration of his or her term as Convention Chairperson.

12. General Warranties of the Area Charter

- a. From the Service Manual: “In all proceedings the World Service Conference of Al-Anon shall observe the spirit of the Traditions: that only sufficient operating funds, including an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle; that no Conference member shall be placed in unqualified authority over other members; that all decisions be reached by discussion, vote and, whenever possible, by unanimity; that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that though the Conference serves Al-Anon it shall never perform any act of government; and that like the fellowship of Al-Anon Family Groups which it serves, it shall always remain democratic in thought and action.” P. 174-175
- b. This Area Charter adopts the principles held within the General Warranties of the Conference as listed above.
- c. This Area Charter applies to all registered Groups within Area 9, including Alateen. As stated in the Service Manual: “The term Al-Anon includes Alateen.” P. 175
- d. This Area Charter is not meant to govern or substitute for any group conscience decision made by AFG Area 9 Florida North. This Charter does not replace any Guidelines in use by the Area. This Charter is designed to bring our history and traditional practices into one place easy access for all members.